

inner half of the inner web (excluding the end) white. On the fourth primary the white is extended on the outer web, only in its preapical part, about 10 mm. long; thus on the extended wing taken as a whole it looks like a dark zigzag band on a white ground. The ends of the primary-coverts and remiges are ochreous in younger birds. Tail white, with a narrow ochreous tip and a blackish brown apical band, the ends of three central rectrices (or four in the younger bird) being dark for a length of from 20 (on the outer pair) to 40 mm. (on the central pair).

In the Ssredny-Kolymsk specimen, the youngest of all, the three outer primaries are still quite undeveloped and the tail-feathers are of *equal length*.

In all the specimens the shafts of the rectrices are blackish in the dark part, and white in the white part of the feathers.

Old birds require no further description. I need only say that even now, a year after they were killed and skinned, they (at least older males) cannot be described as having the head and neck, with under-parts, rump, and tail *white suffused* with pink, as the pink colouring is so intense, though it has a somewhat salmon-coloured tinge\*. The bases of the pearly-grey feathers of the back and scapulars are also roseate. The fat of this bird is nearly as orange as that of *Hæmatopus ostralegus*.

Wesenberg, Esthonia, Russia,  
July 22nd, 1906.

XL.—*On the Birds collected and observed during the Voyage of the 'Valhalla,' R.Y.S., from November 1905 to May 1906.* By MICHAEL J. NICOLL, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate XXI.)

IN the autumn of 1905 Lord Crawford once more most kindly invited me to accompany him as naturalist during

\* But the eggs of the bird, I may add, have somewhat faded.

his winter-cruise on the 'Valhalla,' and we left Cowes for Las Palmas on November 6th.

A few hours before our departure I saw a young Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) flying round the ship in Cowes roads in company with Kittiwakes and Herring-Gulls. In the Bay I saw Manx Shearwaters, Gannets, and Storm-Petrels, and a Greenfinch, a Willow-Wren, and a Stock-Dove came on board.

Just before sighting Gran Canaria many small Petrels (*Oceanodroma castro*) followed the ship, as well as numbers of Leach's Petrel (*O. leucorrhœa*), and the latter species was our constant companion down to a little south of the Line. On November 13th we anchored at Las Palmas. During our stay there I obtained examples of the following species or birds:—*Sylvia conspicillata*, *Phylloscopus rufus fortunatus*, *Antus bertheloti*, *Motacilla boarmia*, *Parus teneriffæ*, *Carduelis elegans parva* (Tsch.), *Linota cannabina nana* (Tsch.), *Erythrosipa githaginea*, *Passer hispaniolensis*, *Petronia rupestris*, *Emberiza miliaria thanneri* (Tsch.), *Larus cachinnans*, and *Puffinus kuhli*.

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On November 22nd we finally left Las Palmas for St. Paul's Rocks, while two days later a Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*) flew round the ship. On December 2nd we reached St. Paul's Rocks, but owing to the swell were unable to land. All the three species of sea-birds met with on our visit in 1902 (cf. *Ibis*, 1904, p. 36) were seen in fairly large numbers and a few sharks were caught. As the sea shewed no sign of going down, we left for Bahia. During the passage we saw several Shearwaters (*Puffinus kuhli*) and Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorrhœa*), but nothing eventful happened until December 7th, when in lat.  $7^{\circ} 14' S.$ , long.  $34^{\circ} 25' W.$ , Mr. Meade-Waldo and I saw a remarkable sea-creature, which we have written of elsewhere\*.

\* See *P. Z. S.* June 19th, 1906.

On December 10th we anchored at Bahia, where we were delayed until December 30th. During our stay we made several excursions to the Island of Itaparica, about five miles from Bahia, and on two occasions camped for two nights there. I collected examples of seventy species of birds on this island, as well as mammals. The following notes refer to some of them:—

*Emberizoides macrurus*.—Only found on one small marsh, where several individuals were seen feeding on grass-seeds, and three adults were obtained, besides an immature bird.

*Furnarius figulus* and *Arundinicola leucocephala* were met with only after rain; only one example of the latter species was seen.

*Myiarchus pelzelni* Berl.—This rare and little-known species was found singly or in pairs among the clumps of mango-trees which grow in abundance in the open glades of the forest. At a distance it is easily mistaken for *M. ferox*; in fact, when working out the collection I obtained on Itaparica in 1902, I referred an example of *M. pelzelni* to *M. ferox*. Herr C. E. Hellmayr having kindly pointed out to me the difference between the two forms, I kept a special look out for them during this voyage and obtained four examples of *M. pelzelni*. This species is generally much paler than *M. ferox*, especially as regards the crown and mantle. The throat and chin are of a more pure bluish grey colour and the abdomen slightly yellowish. The bill of *M. pelzelni* is also pale brown, not dark brownish black as in *M. ferox*, while the tarsus is usually shorter and slighter.

*Elainea albivertex*.—Only one example of this species was met with on Itaparica.

*Chætura sumosa*.—A number of these little Swifts usually appeared during the afternoon on a small lake near our camp, and after a few minutes disappeared and were seldom seen again until the following afternoon.

*Chrysomitris garretti*.—Several examples of this species were purchased alive in the market-place at Bahia, but they all died. I skinned two of them.

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From Bahia we sailed to South Trinidad Island, where the sea was smooth, and we made a good collection, landing on two days. We obtained examples of the following species\* :—

**GYGIS CRAWFORDI.**

*Gygis candida* Saunders, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 163; id. Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 149.

*Gygis alba* Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 217 (S. Trinidad).

*Gygis crawfordi*, Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 102.

This is the most abundant species on South Trinidad ; from the shore to the top of the island it was met with in thousands. I obtained ten specimens : six males, four females, also a young alive, and one egg.

*Gygis crawfordi* bird is a very distinct species, differing from *G. alba* in the following particulars : Bill wholly black (not hyacinth-blue at the base as in the latter) and much more slender : the nostrils are situated nearer the forehead, and the wing is also longer than in *G. alba*.

Probably all examples of the White Tern from the Atlantic are referable to this species, as a glance at the map will shew how completely it is isolated. A few pairs breed on Fernando Noronha Island, and it has been also recorded from St. Helena and Ascension as a breeding species, but is not yet reported from the Cape of Good Hope (*cf.* Stark & Selater, Birds of S. Africa, iv. p. 448). *Gygis alba*, however, ranges over the whole of the tropical portions of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

I fully agree with Dr. Hartert (Nov. Zool. v. p. 67) that Sparrman's name *Sterna alba* should stand for the Common White Tern, the *Sterna candida* of Gmelin. Sparrman's

\* Cf. remarks above, p. 395.

figure (Mus. Carls. ii. fasc. 1, no. 2) is not at all bad and is easily recognisable as the White Tern; although the bill and legs are coloured black and the black feathers round the eye are not represented. The great mistake is that he (Sparrman) says that it is found "also" at the Cape of Good Hope. Sparrman's description of his *Sterna alba* was evidently taken from specimens from the South Pacific, and I have therefore named the Atlantic species *Gygis crawfordi*, after the Earl of Crawford.

This species breeds on the branches of the dead trees with which South Trinidad is covered; the egg is placed on a nick or depression in the branch. Many young or hard-set eggs were also found on small ledges of rocks higher up the island, while at its summit the birds were nesting on the tops of the dead tree-fern trunks from which the foliage had rotted. One bird which I found covering its young I purposely drove off, to see if the chick would be thrown from its insecure resting-place by the sudden departure of its parent, but, although it was almost jerked off, it hooked its head over the branch and by means of its bill and strong hooked claws soon righted itself. The old birds were exceedingly tame, and could be easily caught with a butterfly net while hovering in front of the intruder, and when photographing a pair of adults on a dead tree I had to drive away others, which were hovering like a cloud of mosquitoes in front of the camera-lens.

#### ANOUS STOLIDUS (Linn.).

*Anous stolidus* Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 136.

The Common Noddy, which was very plentiful on South Trinidad at the time of our visit, does not seem to have been noticed by the explorers of the 'Discovery.' We found it breeding in some numbers, principally close to the shore. Several pairs, however, were nesting on a large square rock some little way up the hillside; they had eggs and young at the time of our visit, but were not nearly so tame as the White Terns. Six adults were obtained.

**ŒSTRELATA ARMINGONIANA** Gigl. & Salvad.

*Œstrelata armingoniana* Gigl. & Salvad. *Ibis*, 1869, pp. 62, 66.

*Œstrelata mollis* Saunders, *P. Z. S.* 1880, p. 164.

*Œstrelata armingoniana* Salvin, *Cat. B. B. M.* xxv. p. 413; Nicoll, *Ibis*, 1904, p. 41; *Bull. B. O. C.* xvi. p. 102.

One male and one female.

The three supposed species of *Œstrelata* on this island are very confusing. I feel sure, however, that there are at most two species only, and that if a sufficiently large series were examined it would be found that Dr. Sharpe's *Œ. wilsoni* is either a freshly moulted *Œ. armingoniana* or another phase of plumage of that species. The example of *Œ. armingoniana* which was obtained by Lord Crawford on South Trinidad in 1874, and is now in the British Museum, answers perfectly to the description of that species by Giglioli & Salvadori, as also do the two specimens which I obtained there, as mentioned above. *Œstrelata wilsoni* only differs from these examples in being slightly slaty above, and in having a somewhat larger bill; the latter character, however, is variable, as some specimens of *Œ. wilsoni* have smaller bills than others. I can give no field-notes on this species, as until I compared my specimens with that in the Museum I had no idea that they belonged to the present species, and never having seen a skin of *Œ. armingoniana*, I was looking for a much browner bird.

**ŒSTRELATA WILSONI** Sharpe.

*Œstrelata wilsoni* Sharpe, *Bull. B. O. C.* xii. p. 49; Nicoll, *Bull. B. O. C.* xvi. p. 103.

Six males and seven females, light and dark forms.

This species, if it is distinct from *Œ. armingoniana*, which I much doubt, is the most abundant Petrel and, next to the White Tern, the most abundant bird on South Trinidad. At the time of our visit, on January 3rd & 4th, it was only commencing to breed and I found but one egg. Several individuals of the light phase were sitting together in pairs in holes and under overhanging parts of the soft and crumbling rocks up the hill-side. I saw no birds of the dark

phase sitting at all. The dark phase of this bird is very variable, and the specimens obtained were of every variety, from a dark-breasted bird nearly as dark as *Œ. trinitatis*, up to a bird with an almost white breast, having only the extreme tips of the feathers grey. The darkest examples had the tarsus almost black, as in *Œ. trinitatis*, the blackness of the toes and webs being only just distinguishable. These darker-legged dark-breasted birds *may* be in the immature stage of plumage, as the dark form is the more abundant. I several times heard these Petrels make a bubbling sound somewhat resembling that of a female Cuckoo, as described by Dr. Wilson (*Ibis*, 1904, p. 212).

**ŒSTRELATA TRINITATIS** Gigl. & Salvad.

*Œstrelata trinitatis* Gigl. & Salvad. *Ibis*, 1869, p. 65.

*Œstrelata trinitatis* Salv. Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 413; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 103.

Two adult males, one young male in down, one adult in spirit, and one skeleton.

This Petrel was not nearly so abundant as the former, and was only met with at some distance up the hill-side. At the time of our visit it had large downy young in similar situations on the rocks to those above mentioned. This species is, I think, distinct from the dark phase of *Œ. wilsoni*. All the examples that I saw and obtained were of a uniform chocolate-brown, with black bills and black tarsi and feet. The young bird is covered with dark grey down.

**SULA PISCATOR** (Linn.).

*Sula piscator* Saunders, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 163; Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 432.

*Sula piscatrix* Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1904, p. 214.

Adult males and females. Imm. male and chick.

Bill lavender, pink at base, round eye pink; sac pinkish, base of sac bluish; tarsi and toes cherry-red.

This Gannet was fairly abundant at the time of our visit, especially at the top of the island, 2000 feet above sea-level, where there was a colony of nesting birds in some tall

bushes, with all stages of young, but I saw no eggs. The young in moult were gaining their white plumage on the head and neck, and a few white feathers were scattered over the body. These birds were very tame, and could in some instances be caught by the hand.

FREGATA AQUILA (Linn.).

*Fregata aquila* Saunders, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 163; Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 443.

Four males and six females, immature.

The Great Frigate-bird is very common on South Trinidad, but was not breeding at the time of our visit. Apparently this species was not noticed by the explorers in the 'Discovery.'

FREGATA ARIEL (Gould).

*Fregata ariel* Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 447; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 214.

Bill black, pouch bright brick-red; tarsi and toes black.

I saw several examples of this species at South Trinidad, but obtained only one, an adult male, which was shot by Mr. Lindsay from the yacht as she lay off the island.

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On January 5th we left South Trinidad and steamed up to Martin Vas Islets, which lie about twenty-six miles away. We did not land there, although, I should say, landing is quite possible. There were very few birds seen, the only one obtained being *Sterna fuliginosa*. Noddies (*Anous stolidus*) were comparatively abundant, and I saw one example of *Micranous leucocapillus*. There appeared to be no Petrels on Martin Vas at all. About midday we left for Tristan da Cunha.

On January 11th two Albatrosses (*Diomedea eruleans*) were seen as well as a large Petrel, which, after looking at the skins in the British Museum, I have no doubt was *Estrelata incerta*. From that day until we sighted Tristan da Cunha

on January 17th, we saw numbers of Petrels and Albatrosses. Amongst those identified were *Majaqueus equinoctialis*, *Œstrelata mollis*, *Œ. incerta*, *Puffinus assimitis*, *Diomedea exulans*, *D. chlororhyncha*, and *Phæbetria fuliginosa*. I am as certain of the identification of *Œ. incerta* as I can be without having obtained the birds. It is possible that it may breed on one of the Tristan group. When we reached Tristan da Cunha on January 17th, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, I saw a number of birds, the most interesting being many individuals of our Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*), which were flying about *in pairs*. As we had not time to go ashore the evening that we arrived, I had about an hour's shooting from a boat, and obtained examples of three species of sea-birds, one of which proves to be new to science. During that night a violent gale sprang up, and for three days we were lying off the island unable to land or even to get a boat down. At last, as our coal was running short, we were obliged to leave for the Cape.

I obtained examples of the following species at Tristan da Cunha :—

**STERNA VITTATA Gmel.**

*Sterna vittata* Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 51; Eagle Clarke, Ibis, 1905, p. 259.

Two adult males, one adult female.

Iris black; bill, tarsi, and toes cherry-red.

Numbers of these Terns were flying around the island, and, as I saw several young birds just able to fly, I have no doubt that this species nests there.

**PELECANOIDES DACUNHÆ.**

? *Pelecanoides urinatrix* Eagle Clarke, Ibis, 1905, p. 264 (Gough Island).

*Pelecanoides dacunhæ* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 103.

Two adult females.

This new Diving Petrel appeared to be fairly numerous at Tristan da Cunha, swimming, diving, and occasionally flying, about three hundred yards from the shore. I have not seen the example of *Pelecanoides urinatrix* obtained by the

'Scotia' at Gough Island, but possibly it may belong to this species, which differs from *P. urinatrix* in its much smaller size, especially as regards the bill and feet, its whiter throat, and its less marked and whiter flanks.

—DIOMEDEA CHLORORHYNCHA.

*Diomedea chlororhynchos* Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 568 (1788).

*Thalassogeran chlororhynchus* Salvin, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 451.

Male and female adult.

Bill black, streak down culmen yellow, orange near tip of bill; a yellow ridge at base of bill; line of gape and a ridge of skin beyond the gape yellow; tarsi and toes flesh-coleured.

The immature plumage of this and many other species of Albatross yet remains to be described. We hear of travellers visiting the breeding-places of these birds, yet none seem to have thought of bringing home a series of the young. This Albatross was fairly numerous round the island, but in the short time that we were there I was only able to get two specimens. I believe that it was breeding at the time of our visit, and if we had had the good fortune to have fine weather, we should probably have been able to visit the nesting-place, which is situated on the top of the crater. I was told by two of the islanders who came on board that only the Mollymauks or small Albatrosses breed on Tristan da Cunha, *Diomedea ecalans* nesting on Inaccessible Island.

I was also told by one of these men that the only land-bird left on the island was the Thrush, *Nesocichla eremita*; the Bunting (*Nesospiza dacunhae*) and the Rail (*Porphyriornis nesiotis*) not being now found there. The Bunting, however, was said to be still common on Inaccessible Island, where there is also a Rail "like a little black chicken." This is probably an undescribed species, unless my informant had seen only young birds, as the Tristan da Cunha bird is about the size of our Moorhen.

Antarctic Skuas (*Stercorarius antarcticus*) were also seen round this island, as well as Sooty Albatrosses (*Pharbetria fuliginosa*), *Oestrelata mollis*, and *Cymodroma grallaria*.

Between Tristan da Cunha and the Cape of Good Hope numbers of Petrels were seen, as well as Albatrosses (*D. exulans* and *D. chlororhyncha*), which were abundant for a few days, after which the latter disappeared. A few Great Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*) were also seen.

On January 24th, when about three days from the Cape, a Petrel, probably *Oestrelata incerta*, followed the ship all day, sometimes flying over the poop, but never near enough to drop on deck if shot, although I waited for it all day. *Oestrelata macroptera* was also seen. Early on January 28th Table Mountain was sighted, and at 8.30 A.M. we entered Table Bay. During our stay at Capetown Mr. W. L. Selater most kindly arranged several excursions for us, the most interesting being a visit to Dassen Island. Although Mr. Selater has described a visit he made to this island ('Ibis,' 1896, p. 519), I venture to think that a short account of our experiences may be of interest.

We left Capetown on February 3rd in the Government tug 'Magnet,' and returned late on the afternoon of the next day. During our passage to Dassen Island, about thirty-five miles distant, we saw numbers of Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*), Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax capensis*), *Larus dominicanus*, *Majaqueus aequinoctialis*, *Diomedea melanophrys*, and one example of *D. fuliginosa*, also several Gannets (*Sula capensis*). We reached the island at seven o'clock in the evening, and were most kindly received by the lighthouse-keeper, who gave us rooms in his house for the night.

The most remarkable sight to those landing on this island is the enormous quantity of so-called Black-footed Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*). "Jackass Penguin" is a much better name, as we soon discovered, for during the night several dozens of these birds collected outside the house and kept up a continual braying exactly resembling that of an ass. It is said that about nine millions breed upon Dassen Island. Their eggs are collected and sent to Capetown for eating. Two eggs are laid in a nest, usually in a hole in the ground or in a scooped-out hollow under the ice-plant with which the island is covered in places. It is

an interesting sight to see the birds digging these holes and throwing out the sand with their feet.

Besides the Penguins, Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax capensis* and *P. neglectus*) were seen, the former being especially numerous. These birds are strictly preserved for their "guano," and during the breeding-time no one is allowed to go near the colony, as if the birds are driven from their eggs the Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) swoop down and take them. Close to the Cormorants was a colony of Sacred Ibis (*Ibis aethiopica*), which we were told were very destructive to the young Cormorants, feeding on their intestines. This we found to be a fact, as, when handled, the young Ibis brought up portions of intestine. The nests of *Ibis aethiopica* are built close together, and resemble one large flat heap of rubbish with numerous depressions, in which the eggs are laid. I obtained several young Ibis for specimens, and kept two alive, which are now in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London. A specimen of *Phalacrocorax neglectus* was also obtained and a young Penguin, which is now in the Zoological Gardens. Besides these birds we saw examples of the following species on Dassen Island: *Motacilla capensis*, *Hæmatopus moquini*, *Aegialitis pecunaria*, *Calidris arenaria*, *Strepsilas interpres*, *Machetes pugnax*, *Ossifraga gigantea*. Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were also fairly numerous. On the passage back I saw a Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). This is the first recorded occurrence of this species at the Cape of Good Hope.

The following day we climbed Table Mountain under the guidance of Mr. W. L. Slater, and on another occasion visited Kalk Bay. I collected specimens of the following birds during my stay at Capetown, besides those obtained on Dassen Island:—

<i>Cossypha iolema.</i>	<i>Anthobaphes violacea.</i>
<i>Saxicola familiaris.</i>	<i>Cotile rufigula.</i>
<i>Dryodromas fulvicapilla.</i>	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis.</i>
<i>Fringillaria capensis.</i>	<i>Sula capensis.</i>
<i>Chrysomitris totta.</i>	<i>Procellaria pelagica.</i>
<i>Sphenoeacus africanus.</i>	<i>Majaqueus aequinoctialis.</i>
<i>Nectarinia famosa.</i>	

From Capetown we steamed to Durban, where we coaled, and on February 15th we left for Europa Island, but a gale sprang up shortly afterwards and it was impossible to reach it. This gale finally developed into a cyclone, and we were unable to stop at any of the islands in the Mozambique Channel. The day after this cyclone (February 21st) a Nightjar (*Caprimulgus unicolor*) flew on board and was secured. During the same day numbers of Waders were seen flying round the ship, Reeves, Whimbrels, Little Stints, &c., also many Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). On February 23rd Mayotte, one of the Comoro Islands, was sighted, and after breakfast we entered the harbour. The Governor of the island kindly gave us permission to collect, and I obtained the following birds there during a stay of five days. We made an attempt to go to Anjouan, but owing to the bad weather were unable to land there.

#### TERPSIPHONE LINDSAYI.

*Terpsiphone lindsayi* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 104.

One adult male.

This new species, I believe, never has a white stage, but is deep maroon when adult, with grey shoulders and a large blue mop-like crest. I unfortunately obtained only one specimen.

Grand Comoro has a brown species (*T. comorensis*), as also has Anjouan (*T. vulpina*).

I can give no field-notes on this bird, as I did not notice that it was of a different form until I got back on board and skinned it.

#### TERPSIPHONE MUTATA (Linn.).

*Terpsiphone mutata* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vol. iv. p. 361.

Five males, one female, and two examples of uncertain sex.

Bill black, mottled with bluish grey; tarsi and toes *bluish grey*.

This Paradise Flycatcher is one of the commonest species on the island, the young brown birds being the more abundant at the time of our visit. One male specimen is in transition

from the brown to the grey and white plumage of the adult. The note much resembles the call-note of our Blue Tit.

**IXOCINCLA MADAGASCARIENSIS** (P. L. S. Müll.).

*Ixocincla madagascariensis* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vi. p. 45. Iris dark brown; bill orange; tarsi and toes light brown. Two males and three females, adult. One male imm.

This thrush-like Bulbul is a very abundant species in Mayotte. All the examples which I obtained were in very bad plumage, but I cannot see the slightest difference between the specimens from Mayotte and those from Madagascar. Joanna and Grand Comoro Islands are given in the 'Catalogue of Birds' as the habitat of *I. parvirostris*. I saw numbers of these birds (*I. madagascariensis*) at every part of the island that we visited, from the mangrove swamps to the highest woods.

**ZOSTEROPS MAYOTTENSIS** Schlegel.

*Zosterops mayottensis* Gadow, Cat. B. B. M. ix. p. 191.

Six males, four females, and one example of uncertain sex. This White-eye is by far the most abundant bird on Mayotte, especially in the mangrove swamps, where I found it in large flocks. It is peculiar to the island.

**CINNYRIS COQUERELI** (Verr.).

*Cinnyris coquereli* Gadow, Cat. B. B. M. ix. p. 39.

Six males and three females.

A very common species on Mayotte, especially among the mangroves; it was in perfect plumage at the time of our visit. As the plumage of the female has not yet been described, I append a short account of it.

Adult ♀, Mayotte, 25 Feb. 1906.—Above dark greenish grey, rump paler, a faint green sheen on the crown of the head; chin, throat, and upper breast pale grey, each feather centred with black, rest of under-parts bright gamboge-yellow; under-tail-coverts greyer; under-wing-coverts white, axillaries pale lemon-yellow, quills black, wing-coverts with a bluish sheen; tail very deep blue, upper tail-coverts deep metallic green. Size slightly smaller than the male.

**NESACANTHIS EMINENTISSIMA (Bp.).**

*Nesacanthis eminentissima* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xiii. p. 484.

This Weaver-bird is fairly abundant on Mayotte, both on the open fields and in the mangrove swamps.

**FOUDIA MADAGASCARIENSIS (Linn.).**

Very common and probably introduced.

**CORVUS SCAPULATUS Daud.**

*Corvus scapulatus* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. ii. p. 22.

An adult pair and one young male.

The black-and-white Crow was very common, especially on low-lying ground and in the cultivated fields.

**CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA (Linn.).**

*Corythornis cristata* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xvii. p. 162.

Five males, two females, one example of uncertain sex.

Bill black; tarsi and toes pale red.

A very common species of Kingfisher, found chiefly amongst the mangroves, where several might be seen on one bush. I often watched the bird fishing close to me. I also met with one in a maize-field some little distance from the shore.

**LEPTOSOMA DISCOLOR (Herm.).**

*Leptosoma discolor* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xvii. p. 1.

One adult male.

Tarsi and toes orange; bill dark brown, almost black.

I saw a pair of these birds on a tall tree in the middle of a mangrove swamp on Mayotte. Only two species belonging to this genus are known—the present one, and the somewhat doubtful *L. gracile* from Grand Comoro.

**AGAPORNIS CANA (Gm.).**

*Agapornis cana*, Salvadori, Cat. B. B. M. xx. p. 506.

Male and female.

Common and probably introduced from Madagascar.

**MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS Linn.**

*Merops superciliatus* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xvii. p. 70.

Three males and one female.

A very common bird on Mayotte, especially on the cleared portion of the island, where there are a few trees standing. Most of my specimens had light blue-green feathers scattered over the plumage of the upper parts. This species has a very wide range (E. and N.E. Africa, S.W. Africa, Madagascar, and the Comoros).

**CYPSELUS MAYOTTENSIS.**

*Cypselus mayottensis* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 104.

One pair and one example of uncertain sex.

In Mayotte Harbour there are numerous little islets scattered about, and one of these, Buzi by name, we visited. Several Swifts were noticed flying about, and I managed to shoot three of them. To my surprise they appeared to belong to an undescribed species, which in colour approaches *C. sladenæ*, but is much smaller, especially as regards the wing. Moreover, my specimens are smaller than *C. barbatus*, which species they also approach somewhat in colour. The general tint of the upper parts is deep bluish green, the chin and throat are streaked with brown on a dirty grey ground, and the rectrices have a distinctly blue sheen or gloss.

**TACHORNIS GRACILIS (Sharpe).**

*Tachornis gracilis* Harttert, Cat. B. B. M. xvi. p. 464.

One female.

This little Swift was not numerous on Mayotte. I saw a few at the edge of the forest and others flying over the mangrove swamps. The flight of this species is very rapid, and it is therefore by no means easy to shoot. It has a wide range (W. Africa, E. Africa, and Madagascar).

**FALCO SUBBUTEO Linn.**

*Falco subbuteo* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. i. p. 395.

A perfectly adult male Hobby flew on board one evening when we were lying off Mayotte and was caught and brought to me.

**ASTUR PUSILLUS Gurney.**

*Astur pusillus* Gurney, Ibis, 1875, p. 959.

Male and female immature. Tarsi and toes yellow.

I saw only the female alive; the male was procured by the Doctor in a mangrove swamp. The female I shot from a tree in the wood that had grown up on what was formerly cleared land. This species is peculiar to the Comoro Islands.

**MILVUS MIGRANS** (Bodd.).

Adult female and immature male.

The Black Kite is very numerous about the harbour in Mayotte; several were often to be seen perched on the rigging of the yacht while at anchor there.

**ARDEA BUBULCUS.**

*Bubulcus lucidus* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 213.

Four adult males, one adult female.

The Buff-backed Heron was abundant on Mayotte at the time of our visit. I do not know whether it breeds in the Comoros, but should think that it is only a winter visitor.

**BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLA** (Afzel.).

*Butorides atricapilla* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 172.

One male and two females.

Iris yellow; bill black; a large yellow mark on the lower mandible from base to angle.

Fairly numerous in the mangrove swamps and very tame. As the tide ebbed numbers used to come from the swamps to the shore and feed in company with the Curlews, Whimbrels, &c.

**ALECTRÖNAS SGANZINI** (Des Murs).

*Alectroenas sganzini* Salvadori, Cat. B. B. M. xxi. p. 162.

Iris hazel; bill greenish, with a white line on the lower mandible; tarsi and toes greenish.

This fine Pigeon is now found only among the highest peaks of the hills, where the native vegetation is untouched, nearly the whole of the island having been cleared at some time or another. I saw very few examples, and obtained only two adult males.

The note of this Pigeon is a very deep "coo."

**TURTUR DAMARENSIS** Finsch & Hartl.

*Streptopelia damarensis* Salvadori, Cat. B. B. M. xxi. p. 427.

One adult male and two adult females.

This was the only Dove met with on Mayotte, where it is very abundant. I did not observe *Turtur* (*Homopelia*) *comorensis*.

**ÆGIALITIS PALLIDA** (Strickl.).

*Ægialitis pallida* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxiv. p. 284.

Numerous in flocks. One immature female was obtained.

**DROMAS ARDEOLA**, Paykull.

*Dromas ardeola* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxiv. p. 28.

One pair of adults, one male and two females immature.

Bill black; tarsi and toes greenish grey, webs nearly black.

This curious bird was noticed in flocks of from twelve to thirty individuals along the shore. At a distance they much resemble Avocets, and are, I should say, true Waders, at least in their habits.

**NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS** (Linn.).

*Numenius phœopus* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxiv. p. 355.

The only example of the Whimbrel obtained was in full moult—quills as well as body-feathers (Feb. 25th). These birds were very abundant at the time of our visit, and were seen in pairs in the mangroves and along the shore at low tide.

—**NUMENIUS ARQUATA** (Linn.).

*Numenius arquata* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxiv. p. 341.

A great many Curlews were to be found on the shore and in the mangrove swamps of Mayotte. At high tide they, in company with the Whimbrels, were to be seen perching on the mangrove trees in flocks.

**TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS** (Linn.).

Very common on Mayotte in February.

**STERNA CANTIACA**, Gm.

*Sterna cantiaca*, Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 75.

One adult male.

The Sandwich Tern was met with in small numbers, in company with *Sterna media*, on the edge of the mangrove swamps.

**STERNA MEDIA** Horsf.

*Sterna media* Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 86.

Two adult males.

This was the commonest Tern on Mayotte.

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From Mayotte we steamed to Diego Suarez, Madagascar, where we remained from March 4th to March 9th. We made a two days' excursion to the Forêt d'Ambre, the largest forest in Madagascar, which extends for six hundred miles and swarms with birds, though, owing to the extraordinary density of the vegetation, it is exceedingly difficult to find them when shot.

The Governor of Diego Suarez most kindly placed a special train (drawn by mules) at our disposal. The distance to the forest was about thirty-six miles, all up hill.

I collected examples of the following twelve species in Madagascar. We saw many interesting birds besides, which we were unable to get—Black Parrots (*Coracopsis vasa*), Pigeons (*Alectraenas madagascariensis*), &c.; and coming back in the train we observed several Guinea-fowls (*Numida*) and a Madagascar Cat.

**ZOSTEROPS MADAGASCARIENSIS** Gm.

*Zosterops madagascariensis* Gadow, Cat. B. B. M. ix. p. 170.

One adult male.

I saw a number of Madagascar White-eyes in the forest, but was unable to obtain more than one specimen. They kept to the tall trees, and were not easy to see amongst the leaves.

**CISTICOLA CHERINA** Smith.

*Cisticola cherina* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vii. p. 264.

One male and two females, adult.

The Madagascar Grass-Warbler is extremely abundant in the fields of long grass on the sides of the railway-track.

**BERNIERIA MADAGASCARIENSIS (Gm.).**

*Bernieria madagascariensis* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vii. p. 529.

One adult male and one immature male.

I met with several examples of this species in the Forêt d’Ambre. It utters a distinct “churr” like that of a Reed-Warbler, but much louder, and seems to keep to the thick undergrowth.

**CALICALICUS MADAGASCARIENSIS (Linn.).**

One adult male.

I saw several of these birds in the Forêt d’Ambre, but owing to the very thick undergrowth I was only able to obtain one specimen.

**MOTACILLA FLAVIVENTRIS Verr.**

*Motacilla flaviventris* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. x. p. 496.

An adult pair.

This splendid Wagtail was met with only once. I obtained my pair on some cultivated ground not far from the Forêt d’Ambre. One of them was seen perching on the roof of a house.

**EROESSA TENELLA Hartl.**

*Eroessa tenella* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vii. p. 151.

Two immature males were seen and procured.

**MIRAFRA HOVA Hartl.**

*Mirafra hova* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xiii. p. 601.

Three adult females and one example of uncertain sex.

This little Lark is extremely common along the railway-track up to the forest. The birds rose in twos and threes all round the train.

**FOUDIA MADAGASCARIENSIS (Linn.).**

One adult male.

A very abundant bird on the cultivated patches near the forest.

**ASTUR FRANCISCÆ (Smith).***Astur franciscæ* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. i. p. 116.

One immature male.

Tarsi and toes yellow ; iris yellow, cere yellowish.

I only met with the example obtained. It was in a wooded ravine about a mile from the forest.

This Hawk is peculiar to Madagascar.

**DICRURUS FORFICATUS (Linn.).***Edolius forficatus* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. iii. p. 254.

One male, scarcely adult.

The example obtained was the only one of this species that I met with. It was sitting in a tree on the outskirts of the Forêt d'Ambre.

**CENTROPS TOLOU (P. L. S. Müll.).***Centropus toulou* Shelley, Cat. B. B. M. xix. p. 350.

One adult male.

Iris dark reddish-brown ; bill, tarsi, and toes black.

I saw several Lark-heeled Cuckoos near the forest in Madagascar. They were extremely tame.

This species is peculiar to Madagascar.

**CAPRIMULGUS MADAGASCARIENSIS Sganz.***Caprimulgus madagascariensis* Hartert, Cat. B. B. M. xvi. p. 535.

One adult male.

I met with only one example of this species in Madagascar ; it was sitting on a stone close to the sea.

We left Diego Suarez on the afternoon of March 9th, and sighted Glorioso at 7 o'clock the next morning.

Glorioso, or Ile Glorieuse, belongs to France, and is rented by a Frenchman for the purpose of growing cocoanuts for copra. It comprises, besides the main island, which is from a mile and a half to two miles long and about a mile broad, the Ile de Lise, a small, thickly-wooded islet about three miles away, with very shallow water between. Moreover,

between these two islands is a third, which is little more than a large rock covered with grass, on which thousands of Noddies (*Anous stolidus*) were nesting, as well as one or two pairs of Boobies (*Sula leucogastra*).

Except for the cocoanut trees and a large maize-field, Glorioso is covered with a thick growth of trees and scrub. It is a low coral island covered with a deep layer of sand; in places on the leeward side this sand has drifted and formed a fairly high ridge.

The land-birds are represented by five resident species and one migrant, the Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*). All these are on the main island. We spent one day on Ile de Lise, but saw no birds there of any kind, though, judging from the appearance of the ground and the dried remains of Sooty Terns, I should say that it is a large breeding-station of this species during certain seasons. Ile de Lise is even more thickly-wooded than the main island, and the heat in both is very intense. The Cocoanut Crab (*Birgus latro*) is plentiful upon Ile de Lise, though not found on Glorioso.

On the main island the common fowl runs wild, and we saw many familiar "barn-door" varieties of it.

These islands—Glorioso, Assumption, and Aldabra—have seldom been visited by naturalists. Dr. W. L. Abbott, an American, explored them about sixteen years ago, and an account of his collections is to be found in the 'Proceedings of the U.S. Nat. Museum,' vol. xviii. (Ridgway). Dr. Coppinger also visited Glorioso in H.M.S. 'Alert,' when he discovered a new Dove, *Turtur coppingeri*.

Although special search was made, and we went over nearly if not quite the whole of the island, we failed to find any trace of a Dove, although Dr. Abbott got one specimen (*cf.* Ridgw. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xviii. p. 526).

Two most interesting days were spent on Glorioso, where I made a collection of birds, referable to six species:—

**IXOCINCLA MADAGASCARIENSIS (P. L. S. Müll.).**

*Ixocincla madagascariensis* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vi.  
p. 45.

*Ivocincla madagascariensis rostrata* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 525.

One adult female.

Iris brown; bill orange; tarsi and toes brown.

My example from Glorioso was not in good plumage but in moult; however, I cannot see the slightest difference between it and a series from Mayotte and Madagascar.

I met with only four of these birds, and was unable to obtain more than the one example. I certainly did not notice any difference in the note from that of the Mayotte bird.

**ZOSTEROPS MADAGASCAEENSIS (Gm.).**

*Zosterops madagascariensis* Gadow, Cat. B. B. M. ix. p. 170.

*Zosterops madagascariensis gloriosa* Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 526.

Five adult males, two immature females.

The Madagascar White-eye is the most abundant land-bird on Glorioso. I have carefully compared my seven specimens with a series of *Z. madagascariensis* in the British Museum, and I cannot find the slightest difference between them. Ridgway says that he separates the Glorioso bird with hesitation, as he has only one Madagascar bird for comparison, but thinks that the upper parts are "less vivid" in the Glorioso bird, and that the yellow on the under tail-coverts is brighter, but my series does not bear this out. The two so-called forms are absolutely indistinguishable. As soon as we landed on the island I saw this bird, and near the settlement I found it in numbers along with the Sun-bird.

**CINNYRIS SOUIMANGA (Gm.).**

*Cinnyris souimanga* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 526; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

Two males.

Tarsi and toes black.

At the time of our visit this Sun-bird was not in its full beauty. It seems to keep almost entirely to the cocoanut

trees. It is not peculiar to the island, being also found in Madagascar.

**CORVUS SCAPULATUS** Daudin.

*Corvus scapulatus* Ridgw. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 337.

Several black-and-white Crows were seen by members of our party on Glorioso. I observed a pair, but was unable to obtain a specimen. I was told that they were resident on the island.

**TURTUR COPPINGERI** Sharpe.

*Turtur coppingeri* Salvadori, Cat. B. B. M. xx. p. 412.

*Turtur copperingi* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 525 (Glorioso).

Although three of us went in different directions on the island and walked the whole day, no Doves of any kind were seen. Dr. Abbott obtained one example. It is possible that this species is very scarce on the island, and if this be the case it might be overlooked owing to the thickness of the vegetation, as the Doves on Assumption and Aldabra are very tame and usually keep to the thick scrub, where they run about under the bushes, whence it takes a great deal of beating to drive them out. It would seem that this is the only peculiar species on Glorioso.

**DROMAS ARDEOLA** Paykull.

*Dromas ardeola* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 527 (Aldabra, Glorioso, Seychelles).

A flock of Crab-Plovers was seen on the shore in company with some Whimbrels (*Numenius phæopus*).

**STERNA CANTIACA** Gm. = *bergii* (*Ibis* 103b: 45),

*Sterna cantiaca* Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 75.

One adult female.

Iris black; bill chrome-yellow; tarsi and toes black, soles mottled with yellow.

Lord Crawford obtained the only example of the Sandwich Tern met with on Glorioso. It has not been recorded from the island before.

—**SULA PISCATOR** (Linn.).

*Sula piscator* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 524  
(Glorioso).

*Sula piscatrix*, Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 432.

One adult male (brown phase), one immature female.

Iris dark brown; bill lavender, base of both mandibles red; round the eye bluish, sac jet-black; tarsi and toes cherry-red.

This Gannet offers one of the most complex problems that I have ever met with in birds. In Little Cayman Island, W. I., we find a Gannet which is doubtless *Sula piscator*, yet having a stage in which the rump, tail, and vent are white, while the rest of the plumage is brown. In that place, however, examples are always to be found in transition from such plumage to the white plumage of the really adult bird; although the brown birds with white tails, &c., breed in that plumage and have black gular saes, a sign of maturity (*cf. Ibis*, 1904, pp. 588–589).

On Glorioso we find a somewhat similar state of things, though in this case nearly the whole of the Gannets on the island are in the brown plumage, with white tails, vents, &c., and, what is more remarkable still, they apparently, instead of getting lighter brown and then white, as might be expected, become darker greyish brown as they get older. The first plumage is similar to, though slightly darker than, that of the same aged *Sula piscator* from other parts of the world; but when they assume the "white-tailed plumage," the rest of the body, &c., is quite a shade darker. To the best of my belief, I did not see a single speckled Gannet on the island of Glorioso, though on the neighbouring islands, Assumption and Aldabra, speckled birds, *i. e.* birds moulting straight from the brown-tailed plumage into white plumage, are the rule. On Glorioso at least ninety per cent. of the Gannets are brown-plumaged birds with white tails, and this, coupled with the fact that they are darker in colour, almost decided me to describe them as of a distinct species. But knowing, as I did from experience, that the Cayman Gannets have a similar plumage, although they moult from that into

the white plumage, I do not think that there are sufficient grounds for separating them.

Is the Glorioso bird passing by evolution from a white to a constant dark form? If so, why? It cannot be a case of isolation, as Glorioso is not much more than fifty miles from Assumption, where the Gannets are all white or speckled birds, moulting to white, and *Sula pectorator* is one of the most active and quick-flying Gannets that exists. The climate is the same at Glorioso as at Assumption, and the food is probably the same.

I give below a short description of the plumages of my specimens:—

♀ imm., Glorioso, March 10th.—Slightly darker than that of young examples from the Atlantic (S. Trinidad) and slightly greyer; new feathers on back slaty-grey; old feathers on neck much worn and tipped with golden straw-colour, new feathers slaty-grey with *no gold* tips; tail dark brown.

This is evidently a bird going through its first moult.

♂ breeding, Glorioso, March 10th.—Darker grey than the young bird; new feathers appearing dark slaty-grey, old feathers on neck tipped with golden colour; no gold colour on new grey feathers of neck. Tail, lower back, rump, vent, and under and upper tail-coverts white.

#### —FREGATA AQUILA (Linn.).

*Fregata aquila minor* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 525 (Glorioso).

*Fregata aquila* Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xvi. p. 443.

Bill, iris, tarsi, and toes black; pouch brilliant brick-red.

The Large Frigate-bird is subject to much variation in size in different parts of the tropical Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, especially as regards the dimensions of the bill. I can, however, see no other difference, and therefore prefer to use the name *F. aquila* for the examples from Glorioso.

At the time of our visit these birds were breeding in numbers in the tallest trees on the island. Many were sitting on their nests and on the tree-tops with their scarlet

pouches extended, some were flying about with extended pouches, while others were in the air with the pouch collapsed. In this case the collapsed pouch swings to and fro, hanging down some inches from the bird's chin. I made one example into a skin and the others, which were especially procured by Lord Crawford for the purpose of ascertaining how the pouch is extended, were brought home in spirits. They have been examined by Mr. Pycraft, who will shortly publish a description of the anatomy of this curious ornament of the breeding-season.

On reference to my journal I find the following extract :—

"I notice that the female Frigate-birds have a curious method of display when flying ; they frequently close one wing and plunge downwards towards the ground. The males may do likewise, but I never saw them do so."

The note of these birds is a curious bubbling laugh on a descending scale, and can be heard for some distance.

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On the evening of March 11th we left Glorioso for Assumption, which we reached about 9 o'clock the next morning.

Assumption is a low coral island about two miles in length and perhaps a mile wide. As we slowly steamed up to it Gannets (*Sula piscator* and *S. cyanops*) came out to meet us, accompanied by *Fregata aquila* and *Anous stolidus*. Several individuals of *Sula piscator* perched in the rigging. The weather was perfect and the sea like glass. Numbers of green turtles of large size were seen along the shore. We at once rowed ashore and landed on the sandy beach. Assumption is composed entirely of coral of an ancient formation and of a brown colour. At one end of the island are several *Casuarina* trees, *Hibiscus* and other bushes grow from the cracks in the coral, and several fairly large trees with large glossy leaves are scattered about amongst the scrub. There was a little fresh water at the time of our visit, but this consisted entirely of rain-water collected in holes and depressions in the coral. That this water is a constant supply, however, is proved by the abundance of

land-birds on the island. At one end there is a hill sixty feet in height, made of drifted sand. Upon landing and entering the scrub, the first thing that we noticed was the curious squealing and grunting of the Rails (*Rallus abbotti*), which put us in mind of a sty full of pigs.

**CINNYRIS ABBOTTI** Ridgw.

*Cinnyris abbotti* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 523; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

Five adult males, one adult female.

Abbott's Sun-bird is the only small land-bird at present known from Assumption\*, but it is very abundant. Two of the males obtained are in good plumage. The sooty-black under parts, from the red collar to the vent, are the characters which distinguish this species from *Cinnyris aldabrensis*.

**CORVUS SCAPULATUS** Daudin.

*Corvus scapulatus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 523.

One male, perhaps adult.

Iris, bill, tarsi, and toes black.

We met with a few Crows on Assumption, where they breed. I examined several nests, all of which were empty. They were typical Crows' nests built at the tops of the tallest trees on the island. Unlike most of the birds on Assumption, this species is extremely wild.

**TURTUR ASSUMPTIONIS.**

*Turtur aldabranus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 522.

*Turtur assumptionis* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 105.

Two pairs of adult birds.

Bill greyish brown; tarsi and toes red; iris reddish orange.

Dr. Abbott saw this Dove on Assumption, but he procured no examples of it, and Mr. Ridgway, in his paper on Dr. Abbott's collection, has mentioned it as *T. aldabranus*. I found our four specimens to differ very decidedly from *T. aldabranus*. The upper parts are much darker (adult

\* I feel certain that I got specimens of every resident land-bird on Assumption, and that there is no *Zosterops* there.—M. J. N.

males), the head and neck are slightly darker, as are also the under parts; the dark centres to the feathers of the "collar" are much larger in this new species, and the under-wing-coverts are dark slaty, and not chestnut as in *T. aldabranus*.

We now know of four Doves from these coral islands to the N.W. of Madagascar—*Turtur saturatus* from the Amirantes, *T. coppingeri* from Glorioso, *T. aldabranus* from Aldabra, and the present species from Assumption. There are still two islands of this group which have never been visited by a naturalist, *i. e.* Cosmoledo and Astone, and it is highly probable that they also may have their peculiar Doves.

The Assumption Dove appeared to be quite common and is extraordinarily tame. We found one nest built in a low bush and containing a newly hatched chick; the old bird was nearly caught on the nest. The flight of this species is rather heavy and not so buoyant as that of most Turtle-Doves: it was usually found under the thick bushes and scrub.

#### CENTROPUS ASSUMPTIONIS.

*Centropus insularis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 522.

*Centropus assumptionis* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 105.

Two adult males and two eggs.

Bill, tarsi, and toes black.

A common though rather retiring bird, found breeding at the time of our visit. One nest contained two eggs and was a large domed structure made of dry grass, placed high up in a bush. The bird sits with its long tail over its head, inside the nest. I only saw the male sitting; in fact I did not see a female at all on Assumption. This species is very tame, and I almost caught one individual alive with a noose on the end of a stick. It utters a long bubbling note which is audible at some distance. It differs from *C. insularis* in being much smaller, and darker on the wings and mantle.

#### RALLUS ABBOTTI Ridgw.

*Dryolimnas abbotti* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 520.

*Rallus abbotti* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

Three adult males, one adult female, one immature male.

Iris reddish hazel; bill red at base, brown at tip; tarsi and toes dark brown.

Abbott's Rail is one of the most abundant birds on Assumption, and at once makes its presence known by a curious note which much resembles that of our Water-Rail (*R. aquaticus*). When uttering this note, it puffs its feathers out and looks almost twice its natural size, then gradually collapsing, as it were. The nesting-season was apparently over when we were on the island, though I saw several young birds covered with *black* down like young Water-hens. This species, like most other Rails, appears to shed all its wing-quills at once and to be then flightless; at other times it can, I believe, fly, although I never saw a wild bird do so.

It was extraordinarily tame, and would feed unconcernedly while we were beating out the bushes within a few inches of it. We obtained an adult and an immature bird alive; they thrived wonderfully on raw meat, fish, and bread-crumbs, and may now be seen in the Zoological Gardens.

As I believe that the plumage of the immature bird has not previously been described, I append a short description of an immature male obtained on March 13th, 1906:—

Upper parts olive-brown, feathers of mantle centred with black, crown of head uniform brownish; chin, centre of throat, and neck white; lower neck and breast pale reddish brown; abdomen faintly barred with buff; under-tail-coverts darker red; under-wing-coverts and axillaries black, broadly bordered and tipped with white.

#### —*ARDEA CINEREA* Linn.

*Ardea cinerea* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 530 (Aldabra).

One immature female.

I saw several of these Herons on Assumption and others on Aldabra, but unfortunately was unable to obtain more than one example. From its large size, however, I am nearly sure that it is of a different species from our Common Heron,

but until I can examine more examples it is impossible to separate it on the strength of one immature specimen.

**DEMIEGRETTA SACRA (Gm.).**

*Demiegretta gularis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 530 (Aldabra).

*Demiegretta sacra* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 136.

Adult male (blue phase); adult male (white phase).

Bare skin of face and iris yellow; bill black; tarsi black, feet yellow.

I saw several of these beautiful Reef-Herons at Assumption. They were quite tame, but I do not know whether they breed there.

**BUTORIDES CRAWFORDI. (Plate XXI.)**

*Butorides crawfordi* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 105.

I shot one specimen of this new species (an adult male) as we were rowing ashore the first day. I afterwards saw several other examples, but, unlike members of this genus generally, they were extremely shy and would not allow of approach within gunshot.

This species is very distinct from *B. atricapilla*; the crown of the head is distinctly bluish instead of green; the wing-coverts are edged with white, and the whole of the lower surface, including the under-wing-coverts, is pure milky white instead of dusky grey as in *B. atricapilla*. The neck is entirely unspotted with red, and a single line of faint dusky spots extends from the chin down the centre of the throat. The bill is also shorter, thicker, and slightly decurved.

Dr. Abbott did not meet with a *Butorides* on Assumption, but it seems from Ridgway's account (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii.) that he did not make a long stay on the island.

**GYGIS ALBA (Sparrm.).**

*Gygis alba* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 520.

*Gygis candida* Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 149.

One adult male. Bill hyacinth-blue at base, rest black; iris black; tarsi and toes pale blue, webs milky white.

I saw several of these White Terns on Assumption, but





found no nests, although I fancy that they were breeding at the time of our visit. Dr. Abbott obtained no specimen of this bird on Assumption.

— **SULA PISCATOR** (Linn.).

*Sula piscator* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 520.

Two immature females.

One of these specimens is in the first brown plumage, the other is speckled over with white. This Gannet is common on Assumption. All the nests contained young, one of which I took and reared: it is now in the Zoological Gardens.

— **SULA CYANOPS** (Sundev.).

*Sula cyanops* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 520 (Assumption); Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 432.

One adult female, two young males, and one young female.

Bill yellow in the adult.

Several young Black-tailed Gannets were seen flying round the ship while we were lying off the island, and three were shot. The adults were not seen until the second morning, when we found them sitting on the sand-hill at the windward side of the island. They were very tame and easily caught by the hand. I saw no signs of *Sula abbotti* Ridgway.

There is an adult Gannet in the British Museum procured by Dr. Andrews on Christmas Island, which I believe to be *Sula abbotti*. Dr. Abbott says that "a few breed on Assumption, but are not found on any other island in these seas." *Sula abbotti* was certainly not to be seen when we were there, and as it is a most striking-looking bird it is not likely to have been overlooked.

— **PHAETHON RUBRICAUDA** Bodd.

*Phaeton rubricaudus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 522.

*Phaethon rubricauda* Grant, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 451.

One adult male. Bill bright coral-red.

Several of these Tropic Birds were seen flying high over

the island, and one, the finest individual of this species that I have ever seen, was caught on the ground by one of the crew. It is of a bright salmon-pink all over, far brighter than any which I met with in the South Pacific in 1902-3.

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At mid-day on March 13th we left Assumption, and very shortly afterwards sighted Aldabra. We were all much struck by its size, and later on found what a really enormous atoll it is. Judging by the size of the lagoon enclosed by the island, or rather two islands, which are separated by a narrow channel, Aldabra must be quite one hundred miles in circumference. We were unable to anchor in the place marked on the chart owing to the current, so "stood off and on" until the next morning, when a boat came off to us and took us to a good anchorage outside the reef. Three delightful days were spent on Aldabra, but owing to the size of the island and the difficulty of getting about from one part to another, the time was too short to procure examples of all the land-birds found there. I, however, made a collection of the following seventeen species.

**IXOCINCLA ROSTRATA Ridgw.**

*Ixocincla madagascariensis rostrata* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 535.

One adult male, two adult females.

Iris hazel; bill orange; tarsi and toes brownish flesh-coloured.

This bird is abundant all over the island. The examples which I obtained were in very worn plumage and are so ragged that it is impossible to say what colour the plumage is. I cannot see any difference between the bill of this species and that of *I. madagascariensis*, but as my birds are so worn I have followed Mr. Ridgway in calling it a distinct species.

**ZOSTEROPS ALDABRENSIS Ridgw.**

*Zosterops aldabrensis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 537 (Aldabra).

One adult male.

The Aldabran White-eye is not a very abundant bird on the island. It is extremely restless and active. In general coloration it somewhat resembles *Z. madagascariensis*, but is much smaller and paler and has a yellowish forehead ; the breast and abdomen are almost pure white.

**CINNYRIS ALDABRENSIS** Ridgw.

*Cinnyris aldabrensis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 536 ; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

Three adult males and one adult female.

Bill, tarsi, and toes black.

The Aldabran Sun-bird is very common on the island. This species differs from *C. abbotti* of Assumption chiefly in having only a band of sooty-black across the breast below the maroon breast-band, while the abdomen is yellowish green. It seemed to be particularly fond of the Casuarina-trees, and was met with chiefly in pairs at the time of our visit, when the males were in full plumage.

**DICRURUS ALDABRANUS** (Ridgw.).

*Buchanga aldabrana* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 537 ; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

One adult female.

Bill, tarsi, and toes black.

Although this bird is fairly numerous near the Settlement, I was unable to obtain more than one example. The males were exceedingly shy and wild ; the individual obtained was, however, exactly the reverse ; it was the only female seen.

**NESACANTHIS ALDABRANUS** (Ridgw.).

*Foudia aldabrana* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 538.

Four adult males and one adult female.

Iris black ; bill black ; tarsi and toes yellowish brown.

The Aldabran Weaver-bird is the most abundant land-bird near the Settlement, where it seems to take the place of the English Sparrow, flocking round the houses to pick up crumbs, &c. At the time of our visit it was just beginning to nest in the Casuarina-trees, and the males were in perfect plumage.

**CUCULUS CANORUS?**

I saw a Cuckoo, which I believe to have been of this species, on Aldabra, but I was not able to get it.

**CENTROPUS INSULARIS Ridgw.**

*Centropus insularis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 522 (Aldabra).

Bill, tarsi, and toes black.

I obtained an adult female and a barred young female of this species on Aldabra; it is larger than *C. assumptionis*, especially as regards the bill and tail, and is lighter maroon on the wings. I did not see many individuals of this bird on Aldabra, but it is doubtless more numerous than I imagined at the time, as it is easily overlooked, especially on such a large island, and is very retiring in its habits, though by no means shy.

**CORVUS SCAPULATUS Daudin.**

*Corvus scapulatus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 537.

One immature male.

This Crow is not common on Aldabra; I met with it only in one place, near some Casuarina-trees on the shore.

**ALECTRÖNAS MINOR Berl.**

*Alectrœnas sganzini* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 532 (Aldabra).

*Alectrœnas minor* Berl. Abh. Senck. nat. Ges. 1898, p. 493 (Aldabra); Sharpe, Hand-l. Birds, vol. i. p. 62.

Two adult females, one female scarcely adult, and one immature pair.

The Aldabran "Fruit-Pigeon" is apparently not an abundant species. I saw one near the Settlement, and a few on the further side of the lagoon about thirty miles off; in the latter place they frequented a clump of tall trees close to the Ibis-colony. This bird, unlike the members of the genus met with elsewhere, was very shy, and I had some difficulty in obtaining adult specimens. The young were in moult from the nesting to the adult plumage. In the first plumage they are green above, every feather being edged with

golden yellow and the quills broadly so; the under-parts are greenish grey. In my examples the blue adult feathers of the back and the grey neck plume-like feathers are appearing in a scattered manner. Ridgway, on the birds collected by Abbott, says of this species: "Similar or identical with that of Madagascar"; but the Madagascar bird is totally different in colour, being vinous red. Mr. Ridgway evidently means, with that of the Comoros, *A. sganzini*. *A. minor*, however, is *decidedly smaller*, but in other respects does not seem to differ from *A. sganzini*.

In the same paper we read, "They are extremely tame and stupid and can almost be caught in the hand" (Abbott, MS.). Probably Abbott was at Aldabra when this bird was not nesting, or rather when it had not got young, as I found it impossible to get any adults except by sitting very quietly under the above-mentioned trees.

**TURTUR ALDABRANUS** Sclater.

*Turtur aldabranus* Salvadori, Cat. B. B. M. xxi. p. 411.

*Turtur aldabranus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 532.

One adult male and one immature female.

I saw very few of these Doves on Aldabra, though possibly they are more abundant on parts of the island which I did not visit. Their habits are similar to those of *T. assumptionis*.

**TINNUNCULUS NEWTONI** Gurney.

*Cerchneis newtoni* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. vol. i. p. 433.

*Tinnunculus newtoni* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 533.

*Falco newtoni* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

One immature female. Iris *yellow*; tarsi and toes yellow, claws black.

This little Kestrel is by no means common on Aldabra. I saw two or three near the Settlement in some Casuarina-trees and two more near the Ibis colony. The only example obtained is unfortunately a young bird, and had a yellow iris, which is unusual for a Kestrel: but, apart from this, I think

it quite probable that this species is different from that of Madagascar, as nearly all, if not quite all, the resident birds on Aldabra are peculiar, including the Ibis, *Ibis abbotti*.

**RALLUS ALDABRANUS** Günth.

*Dryolimnas aldabranus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 528; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

One adult female ; one immature male. Iris hazel ; bill dark red at base, culmen and tip dark brown ; tarsi and toes brown.

The Aldabran Rail differs from that of Assumption in having an olive wash on the crown of the head, and in being faintly and less broadly barred below. The immature bird, judging from our single specimen, differs from that of Assumption (*R. abbotti*) in having the white patch on the throat suffused with reddish chestnut.

This Rail is not nearly so abundant on Aldabra as *R. abbotti* is on Assumption, and I met with only two examples. Mr. Meade-Waldo saw two near the Settlement. The types of this species are in the British Museum.

**IBIS ABBOTTI** Ridgw.

*Ibis abbotti* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 530 ; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

Two adult females and one immature male.

Adult female : iris light blue ; bill black ; tarsi and toes black with a reddish tinge. Skin on the under-side of the wings blood-red.

Abbott's Ibis is to my mind one of the most interesting birds on Aldabra, and the thanks of all ornithologists are due to the Hon. Walter Rothschild for the steps he has taken to preserve this fine and rare species.

I have seen many tame and confiding birds in different parts of the world, but never such a delightfully tame bird as this Ibis. It appears to nest only in one portion of the Island of Aldabra, some thirty miles from the Settlement, but the breeding-season was past at the time of our visit, and the young were full-grown, though they still had the head and neck

covered with feathers. As they appeared to be very tame, I set my camera to photograph a group of them, when they immediately walked up to me and began to inspect the legs of the camera. I drove them off to the spot where I intended to "group" them, but they immediately returned, and we found that they would allow themselves to be picked up and examined, and when put down again remained quite still.

The feathers of the head and neck of the young birds are white with a few dark streaks, but not nearly so much streaked as the corresponding feathers of *Ibis aethiopica*. We saw altogether about thirty individuals, but it is quite probable that there are colonies elsewhere on the island.

This species differs from *Ibis bernieri* of Madagascar in the following particulars :—

Lower neck naked and minutely papillose; remiges without dark-coloured tips; decomposed tertials greenish blue on outer, greyish green on inner webs; and iris light blue instead of white (Ridgway). These characters are borne out in my examples, especially as regards the bare lower neck and the pale blue iris.

DROMAS ARDEOLA Paykull.

*Dromas ardeola* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 527.

This is the most abundant Wader on Aldabra; it does not breed there, but during our visit I saw enormous flocks along the shore, whence as the tide rose they flew over into the lagoon.

We did not see any Flamingoes on Aldabra. Abbott says that *Phoenicopterus erythræus* (?) "doubtless breeds on Aldabra"; but I was told by the natives that such is not the case.

—SQUATAROLA HELVETICA Linn.

*Squatarola helvetica* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxiv. p. 182.

One adult female.

The Grey Plover appears to be a common winter visitor to Aldabra. The example obtained is assuming its breeding-plumage by a *moult*.

—**TRINGA SUBARQUATA** Güldenst.*Ancyllochilus subarquatus* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxiv. p. 164.*Tringa ferruginea* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 527.

Adult female.

Several Curlew Sandpipers were met with in company with Sanderlings, Turnstones, &c. The example obtained was just assuming the breeding-plumage *by moult*, but the new feathers on the mantle are *black* with no sign of any rufous on them. This colour on these feathers must therefore be due to an infusion of colouring pigment or some other form of *colour-change*, as it is not possible that the breeding-plumage could be assumed by a *double moult*. It seems to me that at present we know scarcely anything certain about the changes of plumage of birds.

**DEMIEGRETTA SACRA** (Gm.).*Demiegretta gularis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 530 (Aldabra).*Demiegretta sacra* Sharpe, Cat. B. B. M. xxvi. p. 137.

One female.

This Heron is extremely abundant on Aldabra and is very tame. The example obtained is in very curious plumage, nearly every feather being half blue and half white longitudinally. As these Herons are very partial to the shallow wells or pools of fresh water in the coral near the Settlement, all these reservoirs have to be covered with dead bushes to prevent the birds from fouling them.

**STERNA MELANAUCHEN** Temm.*Sterna melanauchen* Saunders, Cat. B. B. M. xxv. p. 126; Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 526.

One adult female.

I saw several of these beautiful Terns in the lagoon at Aldabra.

**SULA PISCATOR** (Linn.).*Sula piscator* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 531.

This Gannet is abundant at Aldabra. I did not see any of the "white-tailed" phase.

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On the evening of March 16th we left Aldabra for Cosmolledo, whence Lord Crawford intended to visit Astone. These two islands are said to have many land-birds and have not yet been visited by a naturalist.

During the night of March 11th, however, we were carried twenty miles out of our course by a current, and ran ashore on Assumption, fortunately on the "leeward" side of the island. There we remained fast for twenty-four hours, finally getting off without any damage. After this, however, it was necessary to go to some port, and on March 22nd we anchored at Mahé, in the Seychelles. We stayed at the Seychelles Islands until May 8th, and landed on the Islands of Praslin and Felicité. Lord Crawford intended to visit most of the islands of this group, but owing to the very bad weather his plan had to be abandoned. During our stay at Mahé, Mr. Hans Thomasset rendered us great help in collecting, and gave us every assistance; and Mr. Meade-Waldo and I passed a most enjoyable time at his house "Cascade Estate," where I obtained the following birds, one of which I have since described as new.

**IXOCINCLA CRASSIROSTRIS (E. Newton).**

*Ixocincla crassirostris* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

Two adult males, one adult female, one immature female.

Iris hazel; bill orange; tarsi and toes brown.

This bird is very abundant on Mahé and is probably the commonest species in the Seychelles. I have never met with such a noisy bird, or one with a more unpleasant song. Three examples were brought home alive, and I fancy that no one on board during the remainder of the voyage will ever forget them; they commenced to sing at daylight and did not stop till nightfall. In a wild state these birds flock together during the heat of the day in a thick tree and sing in chorus. In appearance they are very Thrush-like. The young are browner above than the adults and streaked below.

**ZOSTEROPS MODESTA** E. Newton.

*Zosterops modesta* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii.  
p. 514.

Three adult males.

This curious dull-coloured White-eye was met with fairly abundantly on Mr. Thomasset's estate.

**CINNYRIS DUSSUMIERI** (Hartl.).

*Cinnyris dussumieri* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii.  
p. 514.

One adult male.

I obtained only one male example of this species, with flame-coloured tufts, on Mahé; but three specimens of a Sun-bird procured at the same time and place differ to such a marked degree that I have separated them as a new species. The example of *C. dussumieri* obtained may be a straggler from one of the other islands, as all those obtained on Praslin and Felicité have flame-coloured tufts.

**CINNYRIS MAHEI.**

*Cinnyris mahéi* Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. vol. xvi. p. 106.

Three adult males.

This new species is similar to *C. dussumieri* in general coloration, except that the pectoral tufts are pale lemon-yellow instead of flame-coloured.

I obtained these examples in the coffee-bushes on Mr. Thomasset's estate. This is probably the common species of Sun-bird on Mahé. I did not meet with it on any of the other islands.

**MUNIA PUNCTULATA** (Linn.).

Without doubt an introduced species. One male was obtained.

The Indian Mynah has also been introduced into the Seychelles, and is especially abundant on Mahé. I saw one white example. This bird, together with several other introduced species, will in time no doubt entirely supplant the native avifauna, as is the case in many other islands. No one appears to realize the danger of this fatal habit of introduction, especially as regards islands, until it is too late.

Once let an introduced bird or mammal establish itself, and sooner or later it begins to interfere with the native species, and no power on earth can check it.

**TURTUR ROSTRATUS Bp.**

*Turtur rostratus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 513.

One adult female and one immature female.

I saw a few of these Doves at Cascade, but Mr. Thomasset tells me that they are not plentiful. Those obtained had their crops full of "red peppers."

I did not see the so-called *Turtur abbotti* on these islands. Mr. Ridgway (Proc. U.S. N. M. xviii. p. 513) proposes to separate *T. abbotti* from *T. picturatus*, which was supposed to have been introduced, as he says that his specimen, an adult female, "differs so decidedly in coloration from an adult male of true *T. picturatus* from Madagascar." Surely one would expect the female to differ from the male even to a marked degree, as is the case with *T. aldabranus* and *T. assumptionis*.

**ALECTRÖNAS PULCHERRIMA (Scop.).**

*Alectroenas pulcherrima* Salvadori, Cat. B. B. M. xxi. p. 155; Ridgway, Proc. U S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 513.

Two pairs of adults ; one nestling.

This beautiful Fruit-Pigeon is still numerous, thanks mainly to the protection afforded it by Mr. Thomasset on Mahé, M. E. Boullé on Praslin, and Mr. Birgne on Felicité.

It is an extremely tame bird, and is easily caught with a noose fastened to a long stick. Three examples were brought home alive and presented to the Zooloical Society by Lord Crawford. The young in first plumage are greenish above, every feather being edged with greenish yellow. The under-parts are greenish grey.

Really adult males have some of the grey feathers, those nearest to the blue abdomen, tipped with carmine, but to such a slight degree that it requires a close search to find them.

**TINNUNCULUS GRACILIS (Less.).**

*Tinnunculus gracilis* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 513.

One adult female, one male scarcely adult.

This little Kestrel is peculiar to the Seychelles, but is by no means abundant. It is exceedingly tame, and is usually seen sitting on a bare branch, where it will often remain for a considerable time.

—**GYGIS ALBA** Sparrm.

*Gygis alba* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 510.

One example. Bill hyacinth-blue at base, rest black; tarsi and toes pale blue; webs white; iris black.

I saw several examples of this Tern about 2000 feet above the sea-level. Others were flying round the grounds of Government House.

On April 2nd we left Mahé for a few days, and visited Praslin and Félicité. I append an account of the birds collected on these islands, which are within sight of Mahé.

**PRASLIN ISLAND.****CINNYRIS DUSSUMIERI (Hartlaub).**

*Cinnyris dussumieri* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

Three adult males.

This Sun-bird is common on Praslin. All the examples obtained had the flame-coloured pectoral tufts.

**TERPSIPHONE CORVINA (E. Newton).**

*Terpsiphone corvina* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

One adult male.

Bill, iris, tarsi, and toes black.

This handsome Paradise Flycatcher does not seem to be abundant on Praslin. I saw only one example, which was in the darkest and most shade portion of the woods close to the shore.

**IXOCINCLA CRASSIROSTRIS** (E. Newton).

*Ixocincla crassirostris* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

Two adult males and three adult females.

This appears to be the commonest bird on Praslin. Examples from this island resemble those from Mahé in every particular.

**CORACOPSIS BARKLYI** E. Newton.

*Coracopsis barklyi* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 513; Nicoll, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 106.

I saw only one example of this Parrot, an immature female, which I obtained. It was feeding in a Magnolia, the only tree of its kind on the island. These birds are strictly preserved by M. Edouard Bouillé, the owner of the estate on Praslin where they are found. Formerly they were killed in numbers by the natives for food. M. Bouillé told me that he has recently seen about one hundred individuals together. The note of this Parrot is a very musical whistle, somewhat resembling that of *C. vasa* of Madagascar.

**BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLA** (Afzelius).

*Butorides atricapillus* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 512.

One adult female.

This bird is numerous along the shore and in the swamps. I saw a pretty buff variety, but was unable to get it.

**FELICITÉ ISLAND.**

**CINNYRIS DUSSUMIERI** (Hartl.).

*Cinnyris dussumieri* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

One adult male.

The example obtained had flame-coloured tufts.

**TERPSIPHONE CORVINA** (E. Newton).

*Terpsiphone corrina* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

One adult male.

The example obtained was the only one seen on Felicité.

## IXOCINCLA CRASSIROSTRIS (E. Newton).

*Ixocincla crassirostris* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 514.

One immature female.

I saw a few of these birds on Felicité, but when we were there it was pouring with rain, and collecting was almost impossible.

## ALECTRÆNAS PULCHERRIMA (Scopoli).

*Alectrænas pulcherrima* Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 513.

One adult female.

This fine Pigeon is fairly numerous on Felicité.

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On April 8th we left the Seychelles for Aden, passing St. Denis Island on the way. I saw several examples of *Sula cyanops* close to that island.

On April 14th we arrived at Aden. Just before we anchored, a Common Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) flew into the rigging. During our stay of three days we saw many Gulls (*Larus hemprichi*), and four were purchased and brought home alive for the Zoological Gardens. On April 19th, when in the Red Sea, a Common Wheatear (*Saxicola œnanthe*) flew on board; the next day several Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were seen; and on April 21st a White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) came on board. On April 23rd a Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and several Swallows came on board.

When we arrived at Suez on April 23rd a pair of Gulls (*Larus leucophthalmus*) were seen, and many Swallows were flying about over the water.

In passing through the Suez Canal many interesting birds were seen, such as White Storks, Cranes (*Grus communis*), Marsh-Harriers, and Grey Shrikes (*Lanius meridionalis*).

At Port Said, Capt. Stanley and Mrs. Flower visited us on board. Numbers of Rough-legged and Common Buzzards were seen flying over the harbour.

During our stay at Port Said Meade-Waldo and I went